

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The attached listing of claims, which includes all claim amendments, replaces the previously pending list of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of making a jewelry ring which comprises:
providing an annular finger ring made of a hard material consisting essentially of tungsten carbide, with the annular ring having at least one external facet and defining an aperture configured and dimensioned to receive a person's finger; and
grinding the at least one external facet to a predetermined shape to provide a pleasing appearance to the jewelry ring, with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during use of the jewelry ring.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, which further comprises providing additional facets or one or more different finishes to the finger ring to provide unique reflection characteristics to the jewelry ring.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, which further comprises highly polishing the at least one external facet of the annular ring to a luster that is maintained for life of the jewelry ring and does not require re-polishing.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, which further comprises shaping a first frusto-conically shaped facet extending around the outer circumference of the ring, and forming a first outer facet of the ring proximate a first axial extremity thereof; shaping a second frusto-conically shaped facet extending around the outer circumference of the ring, and forming a second outer facet of the ring proximate a second axial extremity thereof opposite the first axial extremity, with the first and second outer facets positioned adjacent the external facet and on opposite sides thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the first and second facets are formed to have surface angles each within the range of from 1 to 40 degrees relative to the axis of symmetry of the ring and are polished to a mirror finish.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein each external facet is formed and polished to a mirror finish.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, which further comprises shaping fourth and fifth frusto-conically shaped facets extending around the inner circumference of the ring.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the fourth and fifth facets having surface angles each within the range of from 1 to 40 degrees relative to the axis of symmetry of the ring and are formed and polished to a mirror finish.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material consists essentially of at least 85 weight percent tungsten carbide.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, which further comprises providing a cavity in the annular ring, the cavity having a predetermined size and shape that is configured to receive an insert of a decoration component that provides a substantially different visual effect to the jewelry ring.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the cavity is configured in the form of a slot, groove, or notch, and is provided in a preselected location in the annular ring but that does not extend entirely through the ring, or a hole in a preselected location in the annular ring.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the cavity is configured in the form of a continuous groove or slot which extends around the annular ring but that does not extend entirely through the ring.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the decoration component comprises a precious metal that is mechanically fit into the slot so as to hold the components of the jewelry ring together.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, which further comprises providing an insert of a visually different hard material, a precious metal or a gemstone in the

cavity that extends into the annular ring, wherein the annular ring is integrally formed as a hardened substructure and the insert is provided in the cavity thereof.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, which further comprises pre-shaping the insert to have a mating configuration with that of the cavity, and retaining the insert in the cavity by a mechanical fit or with a glue.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the insert comprises a precious metal and the mechanical fitting comprises one or more of snapping, pressing, swaging, soldering, brazing, or burnishing the insert into the cavity to connect the precious metal to the hardened substructure.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, which further comprises providing design details to the annular ring which details are maintained in their original configuration indefinitely.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the annular ring is integrally formed by sintering powders and wherein the method further comprises disposing a metal-containing portion in the form of a coating over a portion of the sintered hard material.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material is formed by sintering powders that consist essentially of at least tungsten carbide and a metal binder material.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the binder material includes nickel, cobalt, or a combination thereof.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material is selected to have a density of at least 13.3 g/cm³.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one facet is curved.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material consists of tungsten carbide and a metal binder material to facilitate sintering thereof.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the annular ring consists of tungsten carbide and a metal binder component.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material is formed by a single sintering step.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ring has inner and outer surface portions which are concentric and continuous.

29. (Canceled).